

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 5-23 are pending in this application after this Amendment. Claims 1-3 and 5-21 are rejected. Claims 22 and 23 are objected to. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has not been initialed by the Examiner in accordance with § 609.05(b) of the MANUAL OF PATENT EXAMINING PROCEDURE ("MPEP"). While the Examiner has stated on the Information Disclosure Statement that "ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH," Applicant requests that the Examiner initial each of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements in compliance with § 609.05(b) of the MPEP.

Claims 20-23 have been objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended claim 20 to positively recite wet and dry chambers. Applicant has also amended claim 22 to replace "formed of" to "comprising" to make the inclusion of the following elements clear. With respect to claim 23, Applicant is unaware of any Patent Office rule or case law that prohibits a dependent claim to method claim reciting only a structural limitation. Applicant also respectfully submits that claim 23 further limits the steps of the inventive method recited in claim 22. In particular, claim 22 requires communicating between at least one transducer array and a host system via a connection member and claim 23 requires communicating between at least one transducer array and a host system via a printed circuit board. Accordingly, different limitations are recited for this method step. If the Office maintains the objection to claim 23, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office provide a specific cite to a Patent Office rule or a case so that Applicant is afforded a full and fair opportunity to respond. Thus, Applicant submits that the objection to claims 20-23 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 5-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. The Office cites MPEP §2172.01 and states that the missing elements are an ultrasound transducer or any similar element that would relate the recited elements to an ultrasound probe set forth in the preamble. MPEP §2172.01 states that a “claim which fails to interrelate essential elements of the invention as defined by the applicant(s) in the specification may be rejected...” The recitations of claim 1 interrelate the claimed chambers and sealing member that are the claimed invention by structurally reciting the interrelation between the elements. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 satisfies the requirements of MPEP §2172.01.

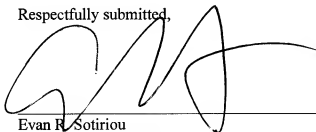
Applicant also respectfully submits that a claim is not required to recite every component described in the specification, but only the elements of the inventive aspect of the invention. Moreover, Applicant is not claiming generally an apparatus having the recited elements, but is claiming an ultrasound probe having the recited elements. Accordingly, the elements recited in claim 1 are necessarily within an ultrasound probe. Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to practice (make and use) the claimed ultrasound probe invention including the recited elements based on the specification as filed. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Independent claim 6 recited a transducer array. Independent claim 6 has been amended to positively recite a transducer array. Independent claims 15 and 20 recited at least one transducer. These claims have been amended to positively recite at least one transducer. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 6, 15 and 20 should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the rejection of dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 7-14 and 16-19 should also be withdrawn for at least the same reasons that the rejection of the independent claims from which these dependent claims depend should be withdrawn as discussed in more detail above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Sotiriou', written over a horizontal line.

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